Asian Development Bank loan to India

361. SHRI NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:
DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has granted loan to India for the year 1990-91; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) On 29th March, 1990, ADB has approved a loan of US $129 million for the modernization of Port and Ship Repair Facilities at Bombay and construction of Deep Water Port facilities at Kakinada. The loan agreement has not yet been signed.

Vacancies of High Court Judges

362. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:
SHRI GUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many posts of High Court Judges are lying vacant at present;

(b) what are the reasons for not filling up the vacant posts; and

(c) by when the above posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c) As on 1-8-1990, against the sanctioned strength of 470 Judges and Additional Judges, there were 27 vacancies in various High Courts of the Country. The process of consultation with the constitutional authorities for making appointments against these vacancies is on, but it is not possible to indicate any date by which they will be filled up.

Centre-State rift regarding Paradeep Steel Project

363. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Times of India' of the 3rd May, 1990 captioned 'Paradeep Steel Project caught in Centre-State rift';

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether South Korean team of Pohang Steel Corporation has presented its final report to Government;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what action is proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (e) No formal proposal for a steel project at Paradeep has been received by Government. There is no question of a Centre-State rift in this regard

Restrictions on foreign travel of council of ministers to save foreign exchange

364. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to save foreign exchange by curtailing the foreign travel budget of the Council of Ministers in the current year;

(b) if so, to what extent foreign exchange is likely to be saved thereby;

(c) what percentage of expenditure out of the foreign travel budget has already been incurred during the current financial year; and

(d) what specific steps have been taken

by Government and each Ministry in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a), (b) and (d) Government have decided that foreign tours of Ministers as well as senior officials will be substantially reduced in the current financial year. Instructions have been issued to all Ministries/Departments that the expenditure on foreign travel during 1990-91 should be limited to 75% of the actual expenditure in 1989-90 or current year's budget provision, whichever is less. The Ministries/Departments have been advised to ensure compliance of these instructions.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exploitation of Rock Phosphate in the country

365. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether rock phosphate in large quantity is available in the East Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya;

(b) what are the names of other places in India where this mineral has been found; and

(c) whether Government have formulated plans for exploiting the rock phosphate in Meghalaya?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Rock Phosphate is available in the East Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya, though not in large quantity.

(b) The names of other major rock phosphate bearing areas in the country are:

Amjhal-Rambhapara-Meghnagar belt in Jhabua district and Hirapur in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh; Achrat-Adhuka-Andwari area in Jaipur and Alwar district, Birmania in Jaisalmer district and Dhakankatra, Jhamarkatra, Kanpur, Khanbaria Ka-Guda, Maton, Neemuch Matya in Udaipur district of Rajasthan and Maldeota, Durmala and other areas in Mussorie Syncline and near Mussorie in Dehradun and Tehri districts and Berwar Block and Pionori-Tori area in Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

Export of Coal to Bangladesh from Meghalaya

366. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of coal to Bangladesh from Meghalaya has been decanalised;

(b) whether the experiment has proved a success;

(c) what is the total quantum of coal exported so far and the foreign exchange earned thereby; and

(d) what is the quantum of coal to be exported to Bangladesh from Meghalaya in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SRIDHARAN): (a) While export of coal is canalised through Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited (MMTC), Government has permitted Meghalaya Mineral Development Corporation (MMDC) to export coal of Meghalaya origin directly to Bangladesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Total quantum of coal of Meghalaya origin exported by MMTC and MMDC during 1989-90 was 39,062 tonnes valued at Rs. 3.66 crores.

(d) MMDC has targetted to export about one lakh tonnes of coal of Meghalaya origin during 1990-91.